

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8818

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 3884

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, WA

SUBJ: NAMIBIA: PUNISHMENT OF DISSIDENTS CONTINUES,
AROUSES CONTROVERSY

REF: (A) PRETORIA 3309; (B) PRETORIA A-192; 9-24-73;
(C) PRETORIA 3462

1. ON AUGUST 12, DURING PERIOD OF UNREST IN OWAMBO AND KATUTURA, WINDHOEK'S AFRICAN TOWNSHIP, ELEVEN MEMBERS OF SWAPO YOUTH LEAGUE DELIVERED FIERY SPEECHES AT POLITICAL MEETING AT KATUTURA. OF THE ELEVEN, ONE IS BELIEVED TO HAVE FLED TO ANGOLA, SEVEN WERE ARRESTED AND RELEASED AFTER, IN SOME CASES, PROLONGED INTERROGATION, AND THREE WERE CHARGED UNDER SABOTAGE ACT. TRIAL OF THREE--JERRY EKANDJO, MARTIN MBULA KAPAWASA, AND FNU NGHIDINUA--SCHEDULED BEGIN NOV 12 IN SWAKOPMUND.

2. OF AN ESTIMATED 125 OVAMBOS WHO WERE DETAINED IN OWAMBO, IT IS
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BELIEVED ABOUT TWENTY STILL BEING HELD. AS REPORTED REPAIR,

THOSE WHO WERE RELEASED WERE TURNED OVER TO TRIBAL AUTHORITIES FOR PUNISHMENT, WHICH HAS INCLUDED FLOGGING. NEWS OF FLOGGINGS HAS REACHED WINDHOEK, HAS APPEARED IN SA PRESS, AND IS CAUSING SOME STIR IN SWA AND HERE.

3. ONE OF THOSE FLOGGED WAS JOHANNES NANGUTUUALA, LEADER OF DEMOCRATIC COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PARTY, WHICH OPPOSES PRO-SEPARATE-DEVELOPMENT OWAMBO GOVT. NANGUTUUALA HAD BEEN CONVICTED AND FINED FOR HOLDING UNAUTHORIZED POLITICAL MEETING IN OWAMBO (REF C) AND REPORTEDLY HAD BEEN HELD INCOMMUNICADO BY POLICE FOR PAST MONTH. ON OCTOBER 24, ON ORDERS OF OWAMBO CHIEF MINISTER PHILEMON ELIFAS, NANGUTUUALA WAS FORCED REMOVE TROUSERS AND UNDERWEAR AND, BEFORE CROWD OF ON-LOOKERS, WAS GIVEN 21 LASHES WITH RIB OF PALM BRANCH. BLEEDING PROFUSELY, HE WAS TAKEN TO HOSPITAL.

4. AT UNITED PARTY'S SWA CONGRESS ON OCTOBER 25, WINDHOEK LAWYER BRIAN O'LINN DESCRIBED NANGUTUUALA'S BEATING AS BARBARIC AND DEMANDED JUDICIAL COMMISSION BE APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE BREAKDOWN OF JUDICIAL PRINCIPLES. ON SAME DAY, SWA SUPREME COURT GRANTED AN INTERIM INTERDICT RESTRAINING TRIBAL AUTHORITIES FROM FLOGGING ANDREAS NUUKWAWO, WHO HAD BEEN CONVICTED WITH NANGUTUUALA. HOWEVER, ONE HOUR BEFORE COURT DECISION NUUKWAWO RECEIVED PUBLIC FLOGGING. COURT HAD RULED ON APPLICATION PRESENTED BY REVEREND RICHARD WOOD, ANGLICAN BISHOP-SUFFRAGAN OF DAMARALAND DIOCESE. WOOD'S APPLICATION CONTAINED AFFIDAVITS DESCRIBING FLOGGING OF FOUR WOMEN IN OWAMBO.

5. COMMENT: SAG WILL BE ABLE, IF PRESSED, TAKE REFUGE IN FACT THAT CORPORAL PUNISHMENT BEING METED OUT BY OWAMBO TRIBAL AUTHORITIES. THIS UNDOUBTEDLY WILL NOT WASH WITH SAG'S CRITICS WHO CLAIM OWAMBO GOVT NO MORE THAN INSTRUMENT OF SAG POLICY. IN ANY EVENT, IT LIKELY SAG AUTHORITIES IN NAMIBIA HAD APPROVED OF FLOGGINGS AS OBJECT LESSON TO ITS OPPONENTS. BY ACTING SHORT-SIGHTEDLY, SAG HAS PRESENTED YET ANOTHER TAILOR-MADE ISSUE TO THOSE WHO CALL FOR MORE STRINGENT MEASURES AGAINST ITS CONTINUED ILLEGAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORY. MOREOVER, HARSH PUNISHMENT OF DISSIDENTS IN OWMABO CAN ONLY RAISE LEVEL OF TENSION THERE AND OF HATRED FOR SAG AND TRIBAL AUTHORITIES WHO SUPPORT ITS POLICIES.

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HURD

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